

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1914

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLO'STER v. ABERTILLERY

VISITORS WELL BEATEN

WELSHMEN'S STRONG ATTACK

Gloucester had to visit Abertillery to-day with a disorganised back division, C. Cook (suffering with a severe cold), A. Hall (ordered to give up the game for a time), and L. Hamblin and A. Lewis (on the injured list) all being absent. The vacancies were filled by A. Marmont (who was making his debüt in first-class football), R. A. Clarke (who in past seasons has appeared occasionally for Gloucester), S. Sysum and T. Burns.

The City have never won at 'Tillery, and the handicap the team suffered this afternoon did not encourage the hope that the record of defeats would be checked. Abertillery possess a powerful front, and at home are a difficult side to beat; in fact, they entered the field to-day with a ground record, and could be depended on to make a desperate effort to retain it against the Saxon's invasion.

There was an eleventh hour change in the City team, Hayes being unable to get away, and F. Ayliffe being called on. For Abertillery, Norris appeared for Edwards, A. Llewellyn for W. J. Thomas, W. Hall for R. Thomas, and M. Blackwell for J. B. Jones. There was a capital crowd of spectators, and the ground, though on the heavy side, was in fair condition.

The following were the teams :

GLOUCESTER	POSITIONS	ABERTILLERY
A. Marmont	Backs.	T. Edwards
W. Washbourn	Three-Quarter	W. Bowen
R. A. Clarke	Backs	F. Giles
S. Sysum	"	A. Llewellyn
F. Webb	"	T. Evans
T. Burns	Half-Backs	-. Norris
J. Baker	"	W. J. Powell
G. Halford (capt.)	Forwards	T. Simmonds
S. Smart	"	Jack Webb
F. Ayliffe	"	J. Jones
A. Saunders	"	W. Hall
S. Millard	"	M. Blackwell
A. Cook	"	W. Jones
J. F. Lawson	"	W. Powell
W. Parham	"	W. T. Lewis

Referee : Mr. T. Curtis (Welsh Union).

### THE GAME

Abertillery started and, Halford returning well, play opened at the centre. The home forwards heeled from the first scrum, but Powell missed his pass badly, and Burns dribbled through until checked by Evans. Marmont knocking on a return from Norris, the home team gained a nice slice of ground, but it was recovered by the aid of a penalty kick. Burns, missing a transfer from Baker, allowed Abertillery to reach the Gloucester half, but fine work by Clarke gave the City a good position. Baker got the ball out smartly, but the passing broke down with Webb well placed.

Gloucester tried another attack, but Clarke was well tackled. A long punt by Norris saw Marmont tackled in possession, and later a rush by the Abertillery forwards found Marmont at fault, and the City were hard pressed. Llewellyn was nearly in on the right, and a minute later a good chance was lost through failure to handle.

Burns and Clarke combined in a smart effort to bring relief, but the Abertillery forwards breaking away, the ball was sent to Evans, who with a strong burst beat the defence and scored a good try. Bevan failed with the place kick.

Gloucester resumed strongly, and near mid-field Baker opened out nicely. Clarke cut through and passed to Sysum, who yielded to Webb. The latter ran finely and rounded Norris, who put out his leg and brought the Gloucesterian down. It was a deliberate foul, and the referee immediately awarded a penalty try. Burns' shot for goal just failed.

Good kicking by Abertillery gave the home side an attacking position, and the Gloucester line was in danger. Working the blind side of the scrum, the City defence was caught napping, and Bowen scored in the corner. No goal resulted.

Weak play by Marmont, who was very slow in getting to the ball, let Abertillery in again, but Webb intercepted and raced away. He punted over Norris' head, but the home player got across and kicked to touch at the 25-line. Halford and Smart, with good work, gave Gloucester an advantage, but a couple of penalties enabled Abertillery to change the venue.

Burns getting a kick charged down, the home team obtained a dangerous position, but Clarke came to the rescue with a clever relief, and centre play followed. Both packs of forwards were showing capital form. Marmont, in checking a rush, was knocked out, and had to retire, A. Cook going full back. Resuming, Burns dribbled through grandly, Evans effecting a good save. From a line-out Saunders secured and made a desperate effort to cross, but was held. The interval arrived with Gloucester attacking hotly.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Abertillery ..... 2 tries  
Gloucester ..... 1 try

Gloucester restarted without Marmont, who had injured his ribs, but he came back after two or three minutes. The Abertillery forwards got on the attack with a dashing burst, but Clarke pulled them up cleverly, and the same player was again prominent with a smart effort which enabled the City to reach more favourable quarters. The home team, however, got back again, despite some splendid work by Halford. A kick down saw Clarke field near his line. He tried hard to clear, but was tackled, and the ball getting loose, there was a series of exchanges, ending in Evans scoring. Webb kicked a goal, giving Abertillery an eight points' lead.

On the restart there was a spell of loose forward play, in which Gloucester secured the advantage, but when the ball came out to the backs nothing could be done. Well-judged kicking placed Abertillery down again, and the Gloucester line had several narrow escapes, Edwards and Bowen being stopped just in time. The Gloucester defence held out splendidly against pointed attacks, but relief eventually came through a minor from a fruitless drop at goal by Norris.

Following the resumption, Clarke showed up with a superb dash, in the course of which he beat several men, but he was eventually tackled. With a bout of passing the Gloucester backs came away, but Webb fell to a good tackle. The City played up finely in the next few minutes, and a grand effort by Sysum promised well. After clearing several men the centre passed to Lawson, who ran hard but could not escape a tackle from behind. Gloucester tried hard to add to their score, but were not rewarded.

Long kicking brought Abertillery beyond midfield, and Marmont being collared in possession, the City were pressed. From a scrum close in Bowen dashed over in the corner, the place-kick failing.

Gloucester played up strongly after this reverse, but they were beaten off.

RESULT :

Abertillery ..... 1 goal, 3 tries (14 points)  
Gloucester ..... 1 try (3 points)

## REMARKS

Gloucester were well beaten to-day, though Abertillery's score rather exaggerated their superiority. The City were let down at full back, where Marmont was not a success, being slow at getting to the ball and too often waiting for the bounce of the ball before fielding. Some excuse, however, may be offered for him in that it was his first serious test. Halford played a splendid game at the head of the Gloucester front, and the pack did much good work. In the second half they were badly beaten for possession. Outside the scrum, Clarke was the shining light, and he saved repeatedly, besides making some fine bursts. Other players accomplished sound work without doing anything brilliant. Abertillery possess a dashing pack, and they were well together. Edwards and Evans were best behind.

Smart and Baker, I understand, are on the reserve list for England next Saturday.

## GLOUCESTER A v. TREDWORTH

### SECONDS' BIG VICTORY

These teams met at Kingsholm on Saturday, before a small attendance. The Seconds, in consequence of the calls of the premier team, were weakly represented. The sides lined out as follows :—

Gloucester A. — H. Smith; T. Powell, W. Wilkes, F. W. Hayward, and F. Bloxsome; Cummings and A. Wotton; J. Harris, W. Dovey, C. Mumford, N. Hayes, H. G. Kingscott, E. Osborne, L. Smith, and Westbury.

Tredworth Hornets. — T. Miller; W. Steele, T. Smart, J. Beard, and S. Goode; T. Broady and H. Young; J. Griffiths (capt.), F. Amos, W. Smith, C. Essex, G. Rendall, L. C. Meadows, F. Stock, and F. Kingscott.

Gloucester started with fourteen men – but later Hayward turned out – and the opening exchanges were fought out at the centre, from which Tredworth made headway only to be pulled up by Kingscott. Then Bloxsome got away nicely, but his transfer to Kingscott was ruled forward – a very doubtful decision – when the latter had an open field.

The Seconds indulged in a nice passing bout, and when pressed Powell cross kicked. Stock, however, marked cleverly and brought relief to the visitors. Continuing to keep up the attack, Bloxsome secured and cut through prettily before sending out a long pass to Wilkes. The latter took the ball smartly and ran behind the posts with a try, which Cummings goaled.

On the resumption Tredworth got into their opponents' territory, but their stay was short, the home three-quarters again bringing off a pretty handling movement. Bloxsome, however, was floored before he could quite clear the opposition. Play was immediately transferred to the opposite wing, where Kingscott, taking a sharp pass from Powell, sprinted over in the corner, the kick failing.

A couple of minutes later from a scrum on the visitors' line the ball was sent across the three-quarter line for Powell to do the needful. Bloxsome goaled. Almost immediately upon the resumption Tredworth were penalised well out, and Bloxsome landed a lovely goal.

The Seconds were now having matters all their own way, and they indulged in some clever passing. As the result of one of these bouts Cummings was credited with the next try after all the three's had handled, and Hayward had just failed to score. Bloxsome failed with the kick.

Hayward was the next scorer of an unconverted try; and then Powell provided a lovely bit of individualism. He went up the line, eluding some men and handing off others, until he stumbled, with a clear field in front. He recovered sufficiently, however, to give Kingscott the ball for the latter to score, the kick being unsuccessful. The interval soon afterwards arrived.

### HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A ..... 3 goals (1p) 4 tries  
Tredworth Hornets ..... Nil

The Seconds resumed by immediately getting on the attack, but for five minutes or so the visitors held them and occasionally even made incursions into their territory. Then Bloxsome started a movement which ended in Powell scoring. The former sprinted down the line and kicked into the centre. Two or three forwards handled, and then sent out to Powell for the latter to race over. The try was not converted.

After this the Tredworth forwards set up a hot attack, and two or three times would have been over but for infringements near the line or kicking too hard when in the same position. Shortly afterwards, however, the home forwards resumed their activities and took the game right to the other end. Here from a scrum the ball travelled across the line to Bloxsome, who had a walk over with an unconverted try.

A pretty bit of play was subsequently seen from a line-out in the corner, the ball being sent by means of long and accurate passing right to the opposite corner, where Powell beat a couple of opponents and scored. The kick again failed.

The same player was a minute or so later responsible for an exhilarating individual effort. He went down the line handing off man after man, and although stumbling once or twice from the shock of the impact, he went on and scored under the posts. Bloxsome kicked a goal.

Later Tredworth had a spell of attacking, and they were awarded a penalty in front of goal. Beard, however, failed to gain points. Continuing, the same player was almost over, but he passed, and the transfer being a bad one, a good opportunity was lost. The end then came.

### RESULT :

Gloucester A .... 4 goals (1p) 7 tries (30 pts.)  
Tredworth Hornets ..... Nil

## REMARKS

The final score fully indicates the character of the game, the Seconds being overwhelmingly superior in all departments. They had the measure of their opponents right from the start, and were thus able to indulge in really good open play. The forwards kept the backs well supplied with the ball, and the threes were thus able to show off their abilities both as a combination and individualists.

Tredworth played very much below their reputed form, and although they had few opportunities to show their attacking prowess, the defence put up was very feeble.

It is unnecessary to individualise with the exception that Hayward made a welcome reappearance, and seems to have quite recovered from his injury.

JC